



tête à tête

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Yorktwinning.com Doug & Betty Stein j1j2j31@comcast.net

A Message from your Co-Presidents



BONJOUR! GUTEN TAG!



YTA had a great start to 2025! The weather was perfect for another wonderful 12th Night Holiday Tour, held on January 5, 2025, attended by about 250 people.

Our first meeting of the year was held on February 19th. Thanks to the generosity of York YMCA of the Roses we can continue holding our meetings both in-person and via Zoom in the Loucks conference room.

An adult exchange to Germany has been planned for June 24, 2025 to July 2, 2025. Many who are going to be participating in this trip plan to extend their trip, so a group rate could not be secured. Flight plans will need to be made individually. Debi Damon from Krouse Travel can be contacted to make those arrangements. She can be reached at ddamon@krousetravel.com or 717-244-6410. Be sure to mention that you are a YTA member going on the exchange trip to LE. Questions or concerns should be referred to Hank Groat at 717-332-1407 or hankgroat@yahoo.com. Due to a variety of reasons there will be no student exchanges held this year. Our exchange chairs are hoping to resume student exchanges in 2026.

On March 29th, YTA will hold its annual wine tasting event. In May YTA will again participate in Give Local York, a 24 hour fundraiser created especially for non-profit organizations. Funds raised will be used for student scholarships and to support YTA activities for members, friends, and events when our friends from France visit in 2026.

If you haven't already done so, send in your membership form so you can be included in our YTA membership directory when it is updated this Spring. Thank you for supporting YTA. We are looking forward to making new memories and friends at upcoming events.



Betty & Doug,

SAVE THE DATE -- MARCH 29th, 2025!



It's not too late to sign up for York Twinning Association's Annual Wine Tasting event being held on Saturday, March 29th from 5 PM to 8 PM at Lavender Acres Winery, 4865 Libhart Mill Road, Hellam Township, PA 17406.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes gratuity. Two wines from each of our Twin City regions will be served along with appropriate snacks. Additional wine and snack options will be available for purchase at the event.

This event has a strict RSVP date. Tickets must be purchased no later than March 14, 2025. Tickets can be purchased by check, cash, or online at <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/yta2024/2025Wine-Tasting>

Please contact JaNeene Powell with questions at JaNeene.Powell96@gmail.com or text messages to 717-858-2966.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to join us for fun, fellowship, great wine and food. Hope to see you there!



Twinned with:
Arles, France
(Since 1954)



OUR MISSION:

To create opportunities for personal contacts while gaining mutual respect and international friendship through organized exchange programs with our twin cities.

Leinfelden-
Echterdingen
Germany
(Since 1981)



YTA Board Officers & Chairpersons

BOARD OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Doug & Betty Stein
Vice President: Laura Koebnick
Secretary: Michele Groat
Treasurer: JaNeene Powell
Asst. Treasurer: Kyle Groft
French Adult Exchange: Jennifer Grim
French Student Exchange:
 Kristin Witmer, Kristie Spies
German Adult Exchange: Hank Groat,
 Michele Groat & Laura Koebnick
German Student Exchange: Molly Wiles
12th Night Home Tour Co-chairs:
 Jessie Henning & Amy Matthews
Webmaster: Ken Krause
Membership Chair: **POSITION OPEN**
General Fundraising: **POSITION OPEN**
Marketing / PR: **POSITION OPEN**
Compliance Officer: **POSITION OPEN**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter: Betty Stein
Spring Wine Tasting Social: JaNeene Powell
Summer Social/Bastille Day: **OPEN**
Fall Oktoberfest: Hank & Michele Groat
Hospitality for In Person Meetings: Kristina Spies



Mark your calendars!

Give Local York will once again hold the biggest day of giving to help non-profit organizations in York County

This on-line event will run

from 9 PM Thursday, May 1st until 9 PM Friday, May 2nd.

This is a great fundraiser and an easy way to support York Twinning Association. Being part of Give Local York raises awareness of YTA, uses new marketing strategies, and expands our social media presence and fundraising success. Our organization is also entered into a stretch pool to earn additional dollars.

Be sure to save the date. Give to YTA to raise funds for upcoming exchanges, student scholarships and cultural events. **Remember, every little bit helps!**

YTA Calendar of Meetings & Social Events

MEETING DATES

Thank you to the York YMCA for allowing us to continue using their Loucks Room for YTA meetings at no charge. Future Board and membership meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30—8:30 P.M., both in-person and via ZOOM. All meetings are open to both Board and General Membership. Meetings will be followed by a short social time. Agendas, in-person and ZOOM links will be sent out one week prior to meetings.

2025 MEETING DATES

January—No formal meeting due to January 5th, Twelfth Night Tour.
February 19th —Regular Board meeting
March — Wine tasting event— March 29th
April 16th—Regular Board meeting
May 1st & 2nd —Give Local York fundraiser
June 18th— Regular Board meeting.
July 13th— Bastille Day celebration & Summer Social at Stein home, 279 Little Creek Road, Spring Grove, PA
August 20th — Regular Board meeting
September 21st —Oktoberfest Celebration
October 15th —Regular Board meeting
November 19th - Board/budget meeting
December—No formal meeting.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Spring 2025: Wine Tasting Social, March 29th
 Give Local York, May 1st & 2nd
Summer 2025: Summer Social/Bastille Day
Fall 2025: Oktoberfest celebration,
 Sunday, September 21st
Winter 2026: 12th Night Holiday Home Tour,
 January 4, 2026 - 1 PM to 5 PM

12th Night York Holiday Tour 2025



York Twinning Association held their annual 12th Night Holiday Tour on Sunday, January 5, 2025. Four great locations were highlighted on this year's tour. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation (UUCYork) served as both our base and our first stop. Musicians from Spring Grove High School performed in the sanctuary throughout the day. York County artists displayed their beautiful works in the unique octagonal building known as the Carriage House with history dating back to the 1800's. Artwork donated to UUCYork by the family of York artist William Falkler, was also displayed.

A second stop was the 1940's newly renovated Cape Cod home of Ruth and Dean Grove. Their home was filled with a collection of frogs, glass ornaments, and a framed Christmas tree created from a collage of old jewelry. Their curated backyard also featured a pond landscaped by Dean.



The third stop was the Tudor style home of Ellen and Mike Johnson. This beautiful home including mahogany paneling and windows made from Rudy glass was constructed in 1936 by the York Ice and Refrigeration Company as a demonstration home for central heating and air conditioning.



12th Night York Holiday Tour 2025 (con't)

The last stop on the tour was the home and Studio Gallery 234 owned by Mary Todenhoft. Several original paintings, sculptures and fine art metal works done by local and regional artists were on display throughout the home and studio.



Thank you to Co-Chairs Amy Matthews and Jessica Henning and committee members Sonja Schaffer, Diane Reimert, and Betty & Doug Stein for their time and efforts. Thank you to all the YTA members who volunteered their time helping to promote the event, sell tickets, set up and tear down, and help at our tour locations throughout the day. Also, thank you Atlas Printing and sponsors Jacob Miller, Krouse Travel, Dan & Trudy Waltersdorff, York Economic Alliance and Fred Callahan of Colony Packaging and Machine for their support.



Due to the work and cooperation of all committee members, facility/home hosts, volunteers, musicians, artists, sponsors, and UCCYork staff, who helped make this event successful, YTA was able to raise close to \$4,000 that will be used towards student scholarships and funding cultural events for our members, friends, and visitors from our twin cities in France and Germany.

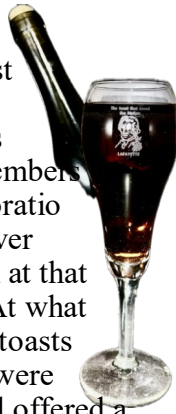


Several Santons were displayed in both the church sanctuary and the Carriage House. Some were from private collections and others were Santons that have been donated to YTA. In the Southern part of France, people celebrate Christmas holidays by decorating their homes with Santons. The word "Santon" in French means "little Saint". Santons are hand-molded, clay-baled figures that represent the people and animals who visited and brought offerings to baby Jesus.



Lafayette Returns!

Frenchman Marquis de Lafayette's first visit to York occurred in January of 1778 when he met at the Courthouse to discuss details of the Revolutionary War with members of the Continental Congress. General Horatio Gates, who hoped to gain favor to take over command of the troops, was also in York at that time and invited him to attend a dinner. At what is now known as the Gates House, many toasts saluting Gates and his accomplishments were given. Lafayette, noticing that no one had offered a toast to Washington, raised his glass toasting his good friend and mentor, General George Washington, dashing Gates' hopes of gaining support from France and overthrowing Washington's command.



Forty-seven years later, in 1825, Lafayette returned to Pennsylvania with his son named George Washington Lafayette on his Return to America tour. During a celebration at York's Globe Inn, Lafayette once more gave a toast, this time to the town of York stating, "The town of York. The seat of the American Union, in our most gloomy times; may its citizens enjoy, in the same proportion, their share of American prosperity."

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's Return to America tour. Events are taking place to recognize and highlight how his actions affected the American Revolution and the Franco-American Alliance. On February 2nd a short parade going from Continental Square to the new History Center on Persing Avenue took place. A few artifacts were displayed and a short program ended with a toast reminiscent of Lafayette's 1825 toast to York.

Lafayette200 Marquis Monday Virtual Speaker Series

Marquis Mondays will feature authors of both adult & youth books about Lafayette! via Zoom from Jan thru June 2025 & will be free program.

Lafayette also spent some time in Lancaster County during his Return to America tour. Between January and June 2025 free Marquis Monday zoom sessions are available to the public to hear authors speak about Lafayette.

Several interesting in-person events will also be held July 27th, 28th, and 29th in various Lancaster County locations. Registering to participate in any of these events is a great opportunity for those interested in history, Revolutionary connections with France, and Marquis de Lafayette. More information about Lafayette's return and upcoming events can be found at lafayette200pa.org



Fun Facts and a Toast to Lafayette!

Did you know that in 1785 all male descendants of Lafayette were extended honorary U.S. citizenship? Many of those descendants carry on that tradition including Lafayette's great, great, great grandson Marquis de Chambrun. Chambrun and his wife were honored during a March 1978 visit to York sponsored by the York Bicentennial Commission and The Women's Club of York.

While in York the Marquis and Marquise de Chambrun made a presentation about Lafayette and his life. One interesting story told of Lafayette being charged and imprisoned for treason when he returned to France due to his liberal views. Upon his release Lafayette mailed his jail cell key to Washington at Mount Vernon. The Marquis relayed that although the French government wanted the key returned, he felt it should remain at Mount Vernon to remind Americans of Lafayette's treatment for his liberal views.



The historic French-American friendship of Washington and Lafayette was remembered in a Women's Club lecture, when the Marquis and Marquise de Chambrun visited York. From left are, Dorothy Rauhauser, Katherine Wilt, the Marquis and Marquise de Chambrun, and Florence Miller, president of the Woman's Club.

Another celebratory toast occurred at York's Colonial Courthouse on March 4, 1978. In the photo below the Marquis and Marquise de Chambrun are seen making a toast to Lafayette and Washington along with John Rauhauser, Jr. president of the Bicentennial Commission and Kay Wilt, from the Woman's Club of York. The toast took place in front of a painting of General Lafayette and General Washington loaned to the Bicentennial Commission for the special oc-



A TOAST to Gen. Lafayette and Gen. Washington marks the visit of the Marquis and Marquise de Chambrun, left, during a reception for the French visitors at the Colonial Courthouse. John F. Rauhauser, president of the York County Bicentennial Commission, pours the toast. At right is Kay Wilt, representing the Woman's Club of York. The marquis, a descendant of Lafayette, spoke at a Woman's Club program. Horace E. Smith, Red Lion RD 2, loaned the painting of the two Revolutionary War heroes for the "French-American Alliance" exhibit at the courthouse.

WHAT'S YOUR STORY ???

How have you been involved with YTA? Did you travel to Arles or Leinfelden-Echterdingen? Were you a host for visitors during one of our exchanges? Maybe you attended or volunteered during one of our events. Maybe you still maintain close relationships with friends you met through YTA. By sharing photos and stories we hope to rebuild relationships, reconnect with friends with whom we may have lost contact, and encourage others to join our association. Please consider sending us your photos and memories to share in future issues of Tete. Send information to:

jlj2j31@comcast.net

Subject line: YTA Memories

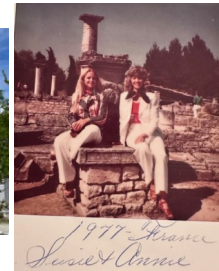
Friends for a Lifetime! Interview with Suzanne Gemmill Robertson

In 1963, Suzanne Gemmill traveled with a group of teens on a YTA exchange to Arles. The following year Annie Fabre came to York from Arles on a twinning exchange and stayed with Suzanne and her parents. As the exchange visit came to an end, the girls vowed to stay in touch. This friendship, forged through York Twinning Association, has lasted a lifetime!

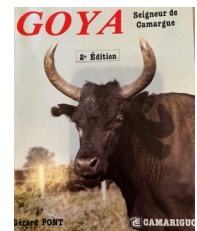
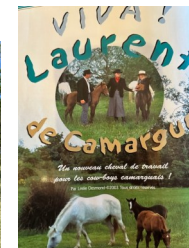


As the years passed, both Suzanne and Annie completed their education, got jobs, married and had children, but still kept in touch through letters, packages, and phone calls. Annie finished her schooling, married Henri Laurent in 1964 and had a son, Patrick around 1966. Suzanne completed her education degree from Millersville College. She taught at Saint Anthony's in Lancaster, Dallastown, and later at York City Middle School under Dr. Luther Sowers. Her daughter, Michelle was born in 1970.

In 1977 Suzanne traveled to France with her 7 year old daughter, Michelle and stayed in Camargue, with Annie, her husband Henri and their son Patrick. Annie and Henri were running Henri's family business that had been started by his father Paul breeding black bulls and beautiful white Camargue horses.



The bulls are used for bloodless bullfights called course camarguaise, and the horses which are indigenous to the Camargue area are ridden by gardians who herd the bulls. Their breeds and ranch are recognized worldwide and have been featured in European and American magazines. Their bull, Goya, never lost a bullfight and is considered the prize bull of Camargue. Today Annie and Henri's son Patrick and his wife Estelle are running the business which has expanded to using the ranch as an event venue. Their son Paul, now 21, is studying to complete his agricultural degree to become a certified rancher and will eventually take over as the 4th generation to run the family business. More information can be found at manadelaurent.com



Many more visits between the two families took place through the years. During a visit to France in 2005, Suzanne and her husband Mark had the unique experience of staying in a gypsy wagon owned by Annie and Henri. Each year in May, Camargue is the site of a pilgrimage attended by thousands of Romani people. This two day celebration is called the Gypsy Festival and honors Saint Sara, the patron saint of Romani people.



The connection between Suzanne and Annie, that began over 60 years ago with a York Twinning Association exchange, continues to stay strong. They've made wonderful memories over the years and look forward to creating many more.





Join the **YORK TWINNING ASSOCIATION** *experience*

2025 Membership Application

Mission Statement . . .

“To create opportunities for personal contacts while gaining mutual respect and international friendship through organized exchange programs with our twin cities.”

* Due to rising costs, our membership fees have increased by \$10 - the first raise since 2016! Printing costs, postage, and handling for YTA Tete newsletters have also risen so there will be an additional yearly fee of \$20.00 for those wishing to receive hard copies of Tete mailed to them in 2025. We will continue to email copies of the Tete newsletter to all members at no charge. Thank you for your understanding and support!

*** I am pleased to support York Twinning Association through December 2025!**

Please check all that apply:

- Single \$30 \$ _____
- Couple/2 people household \$40 \$ _____
- Family/3+people household \$50 \$ _____
- Fee for printed copies of Tete \$20 \$ _____
- Additional donation \$ _____

Total due for 2025 \$ _____

A percentage of membership fees supports the Marguerite Eriksson Scholarship Fund. York Twinning Association is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Donations are appreciated. Please complete all information so our records can be updated.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City / State _____ **Zipcode** _____

Mobile Phone _____ **Other phone** _____

Email address _____

Please check box if you **DO NOT** want to be included in the YTA membership directory.

I am interested in helping the organization with the following:

- Membership
- Newsletter
- Programming
- Adult Exchanges
- FUNdraising activities
- Social Media
- Finance
- YTA Officer
- Hospitality
- Publicity/Marketing
- Student Exchanges
- Other (please specify)

Return this membership form and payment made out to York Twinning Association to:

York Twinning Association
P.O. Box 21318
York, PA 17402



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